

Minutes
Human Services Commission
Thursday, October 14, 2004
5:00 P.M.
Kiva – City Hall
3939 Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Present: Chair Fausel, Vice-Chair Bachmann, Commissioners Berg, Coudroglou, Reid and Resnick

Absent: Commissioner Hemmingsen

Staff Present: Connie James, Dawn Cagan, Jan Cameron, Cindy Ensign, Vicki French, Valerie Kime Trujillo and Sharon Light-Stephenson

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Fausel called the meeting to order at 5:09 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2004 MEETING

Connie James discussed the corrections provided to the commissioners regarding the September 23 joint meeting minutes. She added that Judy Register, Molly Edwards and Diane Kallal were to be included as staff present. She stated that the Housing Board approved the joint meeting minutes with the corrections noted.

Commissioner Resnick moved to approve the September 23, 2004 joint meeting minutes with the corrections indicated and Commissioner Coudroglou seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 2005

Representative Michelle Reagan, District 8, State House of Representatives, discussed issues that will be a priority for consideration in the coming legislative session in Arizona.

Representative Reagan said that disability programs and subsidized daycare are in jeopardy of not being funded again next session. She stated that the local agency, S.T.A.R.S. has only had a four-dollar increase per client/per day in the last 20 years. She also discussed that there are 17,000 people, primarily single parents, still on the waiting list for subsidized childcare. She said that funding subsidized daycare is important in helping these single parents get off welfare and getting their children off KidsCare, because employers provide health insurance.

Representative Reagan discussed the monthly memo she receives from Community Information and Referral Services that indicates who contacted the program each month asking for food, housing and other human services. Last month, 1,080 Scottsdale residents called the service.

Commissioner Resnick said that the 2000 census indicates that there are 11,605 living in poverty in Scottsdale and 25% or 55,000 with low to moderate income living in Scottsdale. He asked what Rep. Reagan plans to do about that. Rep. Reagan said that one of her problems in the Capital is that the word "Scottsdale" does harm in trying to obtain funding. She said that

many people think that Scottsdale residents don't need the funds, and they then go to other districts. She said that what she plans on doing and what she expects citizens of Scottsdale to do is fight for these programs. She added that just because they live in Scottsdale does not mean that they don't have people in poverty and attitudes need to change.

Vice-Chair Bachmann stated that he has heard the economy is rebounding and there is an increase in revenues and asked if funding would be more flexible. Rep. Reagan said that yes, it is good news that state revenues are going up, and it is hard to set the budget when they never know what revenues are going to be, but revenues have far exceeded what they thought. She said that they hope to see an increase for next year.

UPDATE FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION – 2005

Senator Carolyn Allen, District, State Senate was unable to attend the meeting.

STATEWIDE ISSUES FOR HUMAN SERVICES STAFF – 2004

Tim Schmaltz from Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition (PAFCO) was unable to attend the meeting. Bruce Liggett, a member of the PAFCO Steering Committee, presented an overview of human service issues that the organization is advocating for in the coming legislative session in Arizona.

Mr. Liggett stated that PAFCO is predicting a much tougher session next year because last year budgets passed due to the work of moderate republicans, but they were not re-elected. Some of the issues PAFCO is working on for next year are state subsidized daycare, domestic violence shelters and services for the mentally ill. He stated that there was a fund increase of 15% for subsidized childcare, but there are still thousands on the wait list.

Vice-chair Bachmann asked how the commission can advocate for these issues. Mr. Liggett indicated that they can enroll in PAFCO and receive update emails and most important, contact their legislators and let them know what issues are important to them.

Commissioner Resnick asked if childcare is an important part of putting people back to work, why can't industry be influenced to provide childcare. Mr. Liggett stated that they have been looking into what employers can do about childcare, but a daycare investment is a lot of money and employers are more readily offsetting the costs of daycare, rather than providing it – for example, by issuing vouchers.

Commissioner Reid asked how PAFCO would incorporate small business into increasing revenue. Mr. Liggett said that many agencies that provide human services are for profit and non-profit and he believes that those businesses affiliated with PAFCO employ close to 20,000. He added that discussing the economic impact of investing in childcare, such as getting families off of welfare and into the workforce as taxpayers has a multiplying effect. He added that they have to be sophisticated enough to do not only what is right, but what makes sense.

HUMAN SERVICES CURRENT ISSUES DRAFT REPORT AND UPDATE

Connie James, Human Services Director, introduced the background on the Human Services Issues Report. She stated that if the Commission had any corrections to send them to Cindy Ensign, HS Planner and she will incorporate them. Ms. James said that the HS Issues Report

would then be sent to the City Council after the Commission's approval. Ms. James then began the presentation by discussing funding issues. She then introduced Valerie Kime Trujillo, Resource Development Specialist who presented the basic needs portion of the report. Ms. Trujillo then introduced Sharon Light-Stephenson, Human Services Coordinator, who presented the Family Self Sufficiency portion of the report. Ms. Light-Stephenson introduced Mary Beth Hollmann, who presented the Domestic Violence portion of the report. Ms. Hollmann introduced, Vicki French, Human Services Manager for Youth and Family Services, who presented the Mental Health portion of the report and the Youth and Family portion of the report. Ms. French introduced Dawn Cagan, Human Services Coordinator at Via Linda Senior Center, who presented the Senior Issues portion of the report. Ms. Cameron then returned the presentation to Connie James.

Chairwoman Fausel commended staff on the outstanding job they did on the presentation and added that the commission and staff need to get this information to as many people as possible that support human services issues. All the commissioners concurred and individually thanked staff for their wonderful work on the presentation.

Ms. James thanked the commission for their help and although having the Scottsdale name on things often makes people think we don't need services for the poor, staff intend on getting the word out about these issues.

Chairwoman Fausel asked what happens to the report now. Ms. James stated that staff would finalize the document, bring back to the Human Services Commission for approval and then forward to the City Council and ask that they consider placing the human services issues in the city's legislative update.

THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT – 2004

Steve Olson, Government Relations Director, presented an overview of current City of Scottsdale legislative issues that will be addressed in the coming legislative session in Arizona.

Mr. Olson echoed the human services issues presented by staff and discussed the report that went to the City Council last year, which was adopted and sent to the Office of Government Relations so that they could advocate for these issues.

Mr. Olson indicated that there are many competing interests and many relate to funding. He stressed that, as a commission and as citizens, they contact their legislators about the issues that are important to them, because legislators do listen.

Mr. Olson stated that in the coming session education, land preservation, private property issues, financial stability of local governments, liquor licenses and how cities are attracting business will be the most prevalent issues. He stated that the League of Arizona Cities and Towns can and have banded together to advocate on specific issues. He discussed the issue of slap legislature, whereby lawsuits can be filed against citizens for testifying at a council meeting.

Mr. Olson also discussed affordable housing and how Congress is restructuring how funds are distributed for the Section 8 housing, which will affect CDBG/HOME funding. He said that at the Federal level funds have been cut to provide money to the military and homeland defense.

STAFF AND COMMISSION UPDATES

Ms. James stated that if Commissioners had any changes in the Human Services Issues Report, please contact her so that the changes could be made before the report goes for final approval at the next meeting. She said that next Wednesday, October 20 is domestic violence awareness day at the state, county and local level and everyone is encouraged to wear purple on that day. She said that they received authorization from the Police Department to tour the Family Advocacy Center at the October 28 meeting, and all the details will be included in the commission packets.

Ms. James introduced Valerie Kime Trujillo who updated the Commission on the following:

Human Services Administration – Please remember, if you shop Bashas' to register #28841 with the cashier each time you shop, and 1% of your purchases will be donated to Vista del Camino between now and March 31, 2005. Human Services staff have been notified that a LifeOptions grant has been funded for Scottsdale by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, The city is part of a community collaborative with LINKS and Scottsdale Community College to develop a concept serving baby boomers in finding meaningful connections to the community in retirement years.

Civic Center Senior Center – Some new support groups joined the Civic Center Senior Center: The Social Anxiety and Shyness Support group and the Depression Support group. The annual Civic Center Senior Arts and crafts Fair will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2004. The Senior Center will be holding its annual "Spooktacular" on Wednesday, October 27, from 10 to noon in the lobby.

Community Assistance Office – Resume workshops were held at Vista del Camino Thursday, September 9 and 23.

Paiute Neighborhood Center - The National Charity League's Mother and Daughter Organization held their initial kick off meeting at PNC on September 12, 2004 to map out their volunteer plan for their members. The members will be tutoring, helping the computer class, After-School program, and many other activities. December 15, 2004 Grease Paint Youththeatre will host a special performance for the PNC participants, friends and agencies. The performance will be held at Grease Paint Youththeatre, 7020 E. Second Street.

Via Linda Senior Center – The American Chronic Pain Association and the Arizona Lyme Disease Association are providing two new support groups at the Via Linda Senior Center. October 1 was the beginning of the 2004 Adopt-a-Senior program. Letters were sent out to past donors and they expect the usual high response rate. We are seeking adopters who will shop from a specific wish list provided by the senior. Our annual Prep Day is Saturday, December 4 at Via Linda. Via Linda Senior Center will be encouraging all citizens over 50 who are interested in Track and Field to join us on October 16 at the Paradise Valley Community College for the Fall Classic. Please call Salty with the City of Phoenix at 602-261-8765 for registration details. There will be a Fall Senior Aerobic Workshop at Via Linda Senior Center on October 29, 2004.

Vista del Camino – Community Legal Services is offering divorce workshops at Vista on the second Thursday of each month. Contact community Legal Services at 480-822-1442 to arrange for screening and registration. Vista was the recipient of several successful food drives during September including those conducted by Temple Solel and Temple Beth Hagivot. Enrollment in the Vista del Camino's Holiday Adopt a Family Program began October 1. Those interested in enrolling in the program or becoming a donor may call 480-312-2323.

Youth and Family Services – Youth and Family services is again working with the Police Officers of Scottsdale Association on their annual "Shop with a Cop." The goal of is to bring 150 youth from Scottsdale and the Salt River

Pima Maricopa Indian community together with Scottsdale police officers to shop for the holidays at the Target store in the Scottsdale Pavilions. Several agencies and programs within Human Services are involved. The event is scheduled for December 18. On December 1 – 3, 2004 the National Institute on Out-of-School Time and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation After School project will convene the After School Grows U: Building Knowledge about Good Practices in Citywide After School Initiative Symposium. The symposium will be at the Sunburst Resort in Scottsdale. Youth and Family Services staff are assisting in the planning of the symposium which will bring in stakeholders in after school programs from across the country. On November 6, the Civic Center Library is partnering with "TIME OUT" to present a Starting with Books! Workshop for caregivers and teachers who work with young children. Early Childhood curriculum and classroom ideas will be created based on children's books. This workshop is S*CCEEDS accredited. "TIME OUT" is a community partnership with members from Youth and Family Services, Scottsdale Community College and the Association for Supportive Child Care, as well as local citizens.

Chairwoman Fausel asked if staff had any information regarding flu shot clinics. Ms. James said that the organization the senior centers had contracted with informed them that they would not be able to get their vaccines, but due to the hard work of Dawn Cagan that changed. Ms. Cagan indicated that the senior centers were able to reschedule the clinics, however all those appointments are filled. She added that residents could call the senior center to find out if there have been any cancellations.

Chairwoman Fausel asked how many Scottsdale families have been impacted by the war in Iraq. Ms. James said that she would check that and let the commission know.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chairwoman Fausel made an open call to the public for comments/questions/announcements or other business. There were no replies.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be brought before the commission, Chairwoman Fausel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Resnick moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Reid seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beth Hollmann, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

Connie James
Director, Human Services